

THE RUNNING IRON

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The 2005 session of the Nevada Legislature has adjourned, so maybe we are safe for another two years.

Two bills of interest to the Brand Division were:

AB 181- This bill removed the Cash Buyer category from our Agriculture Products Buyers and Dealers law. This change will not affect the fact that brokers, dealers, commission merchants still have to be licensed and bonded. If/when you brand inspect animals and there is a buyer there, be sure to ask for his Buyer/Dealers number. If they say they are a "cash buyer", remind them that they must pay with cash money or certified check to be considered a cash buyer.

AB 407- This bill addresses government impounds of livestock. Essentially it requires a court order, authorizing the impounding of the livestock, be presented to the brand inspector before an inspection certificate can be written allowing for transportation of the impounded livestock out of the brand district or for a change of ownership.

The Legislature also authorized a 2% pay raise effective July 1, 2005; and a 4% pay increase effective July 1, 2006.

Our yearly Head Tax collection is in full swing. Our Head Tax revenues to date as well as our brand inspection revenues this year are not as good as they should be. If we are going to afford the pay increases, we need to increase revenues. If you know of anyone who isn't getting a Head Tax Declaration, especially recreational horse owners, please send us a name and address so we can send them a declaration. When you do an inspection, ask if they have paid their Head Tax this year.

In case you haven't heard, the United States Supreme Court issued a ruling that the Beef Check-off was constitutional and therefore, we will continue, under contract, to collect the \$1/head assessment on every beef animal every time one changes ownership.